Satellite based regional television service to States and Union Territories

1425. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States and Union Territories in the country where the facility of satellite-based regional television service exists; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to extend this facility to other States and Union Territories?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Satellite derived regional television service is, at present, available in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(b) Regional TV Service is envisaged to be provided in other States depending upon future availability of adequate space segment, allocation of necessary funds by the Planning Commission and *inter-se* priorities.

Abolition of contract labour

1426. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to tate:

(a) whether it is a fact that a committee has been appointed by the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board to go into the question of abolition of Contract Labour work for loading and unloading etc. in Railways;

(b) whether the said committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) is answer to (b) be in negative, the reasons for delay in submitting the report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The delay had occurred because of certain changes in the composition of the Committee. However, the present Member-Convenor has been directed to finalise the report early.

Pension scheme submitted by Hota Committee

1427. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee headed by Mr. Hota has submitted a pension scheme to the Board of Trustees overseeing the working of EPF and Miscellaneous Act 1952; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CBT, Employees Provident Fund have considered the Report of the Committee and made certain recommendations which are presently under consideration of the government. The Scheme provides for payment of pension in the contingencies of superannuation, retirement and permanent disablement/death in service.

Placement of Physically Handicapped persons

1428. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The number of physically handicapped persons, in each category, who were given placements by the Employment Exchanges in Delhi and in other Union Territories during the last three year and till date;

(b) Whether the percentage of reservation for placements under the physically

Handicapped Category has been fulfilled in Delhi and other Union Territories;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefor and by when Government propose to fulfil the reservation quota in respect of each category of Physically Handicapped persons in Delhi and other Union Territories?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) The requisite information is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXI, Annexure No. 39]

(b) and (c) Information is not available.

(d) The implementation of reservation for handicapped is a continuous process and it is not possible to indicate by which time the reservation quota will be fulfilled.

New Industrial relation policy

1429. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proopsal under Government's consideration to evolve a New Industrial Relations Policy; and

(b) if so, what major changes and modification are sought to be introduced in the present legal and administrative set up regulating the industrial relations; and what basic maladies in the system are sought to be resolved thereby?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) The question of formulating a new Industrial Relations Policy was discussed in the 29th Session of the Indian Labour Conference held in April, 1990. In pursuance of its recommendations, a bipartite Committee under the chairmanship of Shri G. Ramanujam was set up to formulate specific proposals in this regard. The report is under examination in the Ministry of Labour in consultation with State Governments and Administrations of Union Territories. It has also been decided to place the report before the Indian Labour Conference at its next Session and seek its views before finalising the proposals.

Extension of ESI scheme

1430. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has made a proposal for extending the ESI coverage from Rs. 1600/- to Rs. 3000/-;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that majority of the workers prefer to opt out of the ESI Scheme due to the Poor implementation of the Scheme, shortage of Doctors, drugs, hospitals and dispensaries, corruption etc;

(d) whether Government would consider the proposal of the ESI in the light of the above facts; and

(e) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to give a choice to the workers of a particular company to opt for the ESI Scheme or not?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir The E.S.I Corporation at its special meeting held on 8th October, 1991 approved a proposal for enhancement of the wage ceiling for coverage under the ESI Scheme from Rs. 1600/- to Rs. 3000/- per month.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There have been sporadic complaints regarding shortage of medical and para-medical staff, paucity of drugs and medicine, non-functioning of medical equipment etc. These complaints as and when received, are brought to the notice of concerned authorities for appropriate action.

(e) No, Sir.